

FILE NO. A32631-PCT-USA-A-I 070338.0631

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE RECEIVED

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Applicant

Dufournier et al.

Serial No.

10/023,185

Examiner

: Adrienne C. Johnstone

Filed

December 18, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1733

0/12/03

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 2231331

June 3, 2003

Date of Deposit

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7

June 3, 2003

Date of Signature

Commissioner for Patents Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the

Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449 and respectfully request that the listed

documents be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-captioned application. Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Enclosed is U.S. Patent No. 6,094,978, which corresponds to International Patent Publication No. WO94/03338, cited on p. 3 of the specification. Also enclosed is U.S. Patent No. 5,749,982, which corresponds to French Application No. FR2713558, cited on p. 10 of the specification.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed, applicants believe, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application. Therefore, applicants do not believe that any fee is due in connection with the submission of this

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paper. However, if any fee is due, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

By:

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